

resuscitation? This would take up where the same section of Chapter V left off, dealing only with the later lumbering methods and markets; statistics would be here introduced as to board feet cut and yet standing, and types of timber yet usable, if any.

- b. **Coal.** The largest single division of this section. Taking up from the first backyard mines, here should be told the complete story of coal and its development in the county. Data to be included would be the transition from early to modern mining; mechanization; statistics on coal produced and coal remaining; number of mines and miners; description of prevalent mining methods; facts regarding mine holdings; the interest of Pocahontas County people in their mines; summary of what coal mining has meant to the county; the kinds of coal and its adaptabilities, and similar pertinent facts.
- c. **Oil and Gas.** Later development, if any; by whom, when, where, and the local uses of them, if any; also the contribution of oil and gas to the economic scheme.
- d. **Other Natural Resources.** Slate, limestone, building materials, water-power, etc., either developed or undeveloped. If developed, treated as the foregoing resources; if not, a summary of their potentialities.



# THE HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

## CHAPTER VII

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(Chapter Questions)

#### 1. Manufacturing - Industry.

- a. What handicrafts developed into small manufactures? Did any early housewife's taking in washing lead to establishment of a laundry later by her or her children? Were there any rug weaving establishments? List all others you can find. Locate on map the spots where any manufacturing developed, even if on a small scale, and list by whom, why, for what market, method of transport, way of working, number employed. How were these small businesses overwhelmed during nation-wide depressions? Trace the life history of these small concerns - individually - to their end, or if any survive to the present, describe their present positions. Did any of these in turn give rise to other businesses? Remember that names, places, and dates must be given for everything mentioned. (When mentioning persons throughout this study, be sure to place dates of birth and death in parenthesis after the name. This will make certain that no confusion exists between persons of the same name living at different times.) Describe any industries that have remained in the same family through the years; you may find handicrafts persisting in the present that began in a family of early settlers if you look far enough. These things are interesting not only to local persons but to a wide audience elsewhere, so try to find them if they exist. (Don't include in this section any industry that is not financed locally and owned locally.)
- b. What natural conditions attracted the first outside capital? Did it appear as a bank or other financial institution established in the county? Or was it a loan, or loans, from outside institutions? When were the first companies incorporated, by whom? For what purpose? Trace the growth of these corporate industries from inception to present status. Give location, size, products, number and kind of employees. How much control is exercised locally? Did these manufacturing concerns (remember we are not dealing with extractives yet) raise the standard of living, or lower it? What comforts did they bring to the workers? What facilities for education, recreation, social life? (Mention may be made here of the effect of consolidation on education and schools.) Did towns grow up around the manufacturing plants? Are they dependent on the plants for existence? To what extent? Did they attract workers from outside, or employ natives of the county? Did their establishment lead to further business establishments? What are the present prospects of these concerns? Are the natural resources on which they depend almost or completely depleted? What leaders arose in the growth of these industries? Describe individuals in detail. Place them in location, society, church, education, social life. Give a physical description of plants, equipment, materials, methods used. Describe effects of depression, panic, etc., on businesses and financial institutions. How did their fortunes affect the economic life of the county citizens? Are there any stories of spectacular careers in business, finance?



c. **The Individual Entrepreneur.** This section treats of mercantile and allied establishments. Take up any that are carry-overs from the period of the handicraft development first. Who owns them? How financed? Stories of their development, establishment, or growth? Include garages (stables), hotels, restaurants, department stores, general stores and any others of like nature. Do not include company or chain stores. Mention these in a separate writing with such pertinent facts as date established, by whom, for what territory, against what opposition, in connection with what industrial development. Local concerns, locally operated, financed and owned, should be dealt with in detail, missing none of their history, and giving special attention to color in the lines of those connected with them. For instance, "Mr. Blank in 1785, came to Blank with two dollars in his pocket. He borrowed enough from Mr. Blank-Blank to buy groceries to set up in the business. After a successful business career, he went on to be sheriff and later representative from the I Congressional District in the U. S. Congress." This is not meant to be a filled in form, but just a suggestion of what makes colorful history. Get the personal touch in as many instances as possible. Pictures are always helpful in achieving a full view of the action. Send any you can obtain. Do not miss any of the establishments as mentioned. Cover the county thoroughly. We must not omit anyone who has contributed to the industry and commerce of the county in any way.

## 2. The Extractive Industries.

- a. **Lumber.** Begin when first logging was done for local sale. Take up the first timbering that sent logs down the rivers to mills, and go on to the establishment of mills, saw and band. Where were the mills located? By whom? When? Under what urge? How long did they operate? How much timber did they cut? What acreage was cut over? Where located? Has it been re-forested? What type of persons worked in the timber? At the mill? Describe the mills in detail. (Obtain this from early operators.) Where were the lumber markets? For what woods? What uses were the woods put to? Trace the decline of lumber by the acres of cut-over land to show that all the wood was used and not wasted by these first industrialists of the county. What timber still is available? What are the prospects for reforestation and a new timber boom? (Get authoritative opinion.)
- b. **Coal.** Trace the coal development from early "banks" and "wagon" mines to the first company or corporation mine. Trace clearly effect of booms as shown locally. Were there any labor troubles? Strife? What mines have operated and closed? What now operate? Where located? (Make map.) Tell coal seam mined. Mark extent of operating in each case. What mining methods have been used? This is a very large topic. Do not skimp on it. What machines have been (dates) used; what are now in use? What difference in housing conditions was brought about by the first coal camps? Later ones? Who owns mineral lands? Where is financial control seated? Do managers made county their residence? How many people are employed in mines? Now? Earlier? At specified dates? What coal has been mined?



How much coal is left? Where located? Map this and show where operations are under way and where the coal has not yet been touched. What is quality of coal in these places? What percentage of county business and wealth is dependent on coal?

c. Oil and Gas. Sketch oil and gas discovery and development. Locate wells. State gas or oil produced. Available. What uses of these products (local) or distant)? How many employed? Who controls wells? Are they locally owned or financially controlled elsewhere? What percentage of county wealth is produced by these industries?

d. Other Natural Resources. Sketch the possibility of development in slate, limestone, sandstone, other building materials. Use same questions as above in case of developed industry.

Water power development is important. Give it full treatment. If undeveloped, give all facts about control, ownership, wages paid, employees, where power is used, and what it means to the citizens? Who supplies electric power to the local industries and homes? What is the cost? From what sources? How controlled? How financed? What material used in producing it?

At any point, a question applying to one industry applies equally to the others. Make treatment as full of particulars as possible. Chart every location and show source and ultimate end of all resources.

Devote some attention to major industrial accidents within the county, such as mine explosions or cave-ins, railroad wrecks, or similar disasters. Where did they occur, and when? What were the established causes? What other factors were involved? How many people were killed? Injured? What was the property loss? Did the disaster cause any preventative legislation or the establishment of any safety media to avoid recurrence? If so, what was done, and by whom, and when, and at whose instigation? (For example, the great Monongah mine explosion in Monongalia County in 1907 took 361 lives, but resulted in the establishment of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.) How much immediate effect did such happenings have on the county; get whatever pictures are available, or newspaper clippings showing the reaction at the time.